TIMES-VIRGINIAN

In the Heart of Virginia's Dark Tobacco Belt

Appomattox, Virginia

VIRGINIA PRESS ASSOCIATION

ESTABLISHED 1892

Mr. and Mrs. Calvin Robinson ..... *Editors and Publishers*

Entered as second-class matter at the Post Office at Appomattox, Virginia, under Act of Congress of March 3, 1879.

Address all correspondence to the Times-Virginian, Appomattox, Va.

Subscription rate: $2 a year, payable in advance. Single copy 5c. National advertising representative: Weekly Newspaper Representatives, Inc., 920 Broadway, New York City. Advertising rates upon request.

EDITORIAL OPINION

NORTH CAROLINA MOVES TO ABOLISH ABSENTEE VOTE

The Times-Virginian notes with interest that North Carolina has moved to do away with absentee voting save for members of the armed forces, wives of military personnel residing with their husbands on duty and disabled veterans in government hospitals. This movement has come from the North Carolina State Board of Elections.

We now find that North Carolina did away with absentee voting in all primary elections many years ago. The present movement is to do away with the absentee ballot in general elections, too.

Many Virginia newspapers have held this movement in North Carolina up as an example to Virginia.

Federal courts have had to step in and iron out election irregularities resulting from the absentee ballot in some districts of Virginia. The Roanoke Times observes: "It does not speak well of our ability to manage our own affairs nor of our concern for the integrity of elections. The initiative should have come from our state and local officials."

It is our opinion that Virginia should follow the pattern of North Carolina in this matter. We do not like the words that some papers and opponents of the absentee ballot use in describing the condition in Virginia, because it is our opinion that virtually all the manipulating of absentee ballots is perfectly legal in our state under existing state law. We do not think it proper to use the terms "fraud" and "thievery" when the act done is within the law. Therefore our position is not as vigorous as that of some. But, at the same time, we feel that the absentee ballot should be abolished. A few fine citizens will be unable to get to the polls and therefore lose a chance to vote. But the election atmosphere will be clarified and a stigma removed from our fair state.

NOT IN FAVOR

We do not believe that the State of the Union Address proposal of President Eisenhower, that the age limit for voting be lowered, will be enacted into law. We believe Virginia Senators and Congressmen will favor leaving the law as it is, with age twenty-one the minimum.

About the only argument we ever heard for letting eighteen year olds vote was: "If they are old enough to fight, they are old enough to vote." That argument was effectively answered long ago with the reply: "Then if they are too old to fight they are too old to vote, so do not allow anyone over 40 to vote."

THE WAR ON SOLITUDE

(Condensed from the Christian Century)

In so many ways we, as a people, have declared war on solitude and meditation. We are lost without a "set" or a "bunch." The worst possible calamity is to be alone. If you enjoy being alone, you are "anti-social" and ought to be rushed to the psychologist's couch, or better still to the mental hospital. * * * *

Norman Cousins has put it truly "Plainly this not an age of meditative man. It is a squinting, sprinting, shoving age. Substitutes for repose are a million-dollar business. Silence, already the nation's most critical shortage, is almost a nasty word. Modern man may or may not be obsolete, but he is certainly wired for sound, and has ants in his pants."

BILLIONS FOR ROADS

(The New York Times)

We are accustomed to vast sums for war and defense, but a billion dollars is still a great deal of money and 101 billion dollars is beyond most imaginations. Yet this is the sum that will be spent on roads within the next ten years if the President's Highway Commission recommendations are carried out. A good deal is already in the works. The commission would add about 54 billion dollars to existing projects. Of this amount the Federal Government would pay 60 per cent. Forty thousand miles of road would be modernized.

The magnificant dimensions of this program would have been incredible to our fathers and beyond the wildest dreams of our grandfathers. Yet this has always been a land of road builders. Before the coming of the white man Indian trails spanned the continent, and the tribes of the Northeast traded with the tribes of the Great Plains. The great trails and great early roads ran west — the Wilderness Road, the Cumberland Road, the Santa Fe Trail, the Oregon and California Trails. Once they got to be roads they may have cost as much in their day as do our present roads in proportion to the existing wealth as the present projected highway system will cost in proportion to the present day's wealth.

Round the turn of the century the through road systems, unable to withstand rail competition, had almost fallen to pieces. The automobile reversed the balance. Now the days of majestic railroad building over new routes have probably ended, and the high-speed automobile-and-truck road, toll or free, is perhaps only in its infancy. Its own day is likely to last until heavy freight can be carried cheaply through the air. And that bright morning, as the President's Highway Commission evidently agrees, will not come within the next ten years.

THE FIFTH AMENDMENT

(The Baltimore Sun)

The past year has seen a good deal of talk, much of it derisive, about the Fifth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States. A good deal of comment on this subject has indicated but the vaguest awareness of what the Fifth Amendment actually says. We reprint it herewith in full:

"No person shall be held to answer for a capital or otherwise infamous crime, unless on a presentment or indictment of a grand jury, except in cases arising in the land or naval forces, or the militia, when in actual service in time of war or public danger; nor shall any person be subject for the same offense to be twice put in jeopardy of life or limb nor shall be compelled in any criminal case to be a witness against himself, nor be deprived of life, liberty or property, without due process of law; nor shall private property be taken for public use without just compensation."

When somebody starts sneering about the Fifth Amendment, watch out for him.

HEROES UNSUNG

(The Christian Science Monitor)

A New York eight-year-old found two broken parking meters, took out the money, and, by the way of his mother, turned it in to the city. Apparently he has been taught some very good rules about right and wrong. We congratulate the youngster, his parents, the Mayor (who had wisdom and courtesy to thank both), the famous New York paper which put the story on its front page, and the radio news service which also gave it prominence.

Sadly enough, we are more likely to hear about some youth who broke into meters and stole the money. Which prompts us to extend a few additional congratulations to people who may never get into the news:

To the autoist who puts his nickel into the meter even though in a few minutes restricted parking will be over for the day.

To the one who stops at a red light and at a stop sign late at night when his is the only car in sight.

To the restaurant diner who corrects his meal check even when the error is to his advantage.

To the taxpayer who lists exactly what he gave to church and charity and chooses to remember to report those small items of income that "nobody can check up on."

To the woman who returns the article more expensive than the one she ordered which the department store had delivered by mistake.

And to the many others of like character.

Some may call them "Casper Milquetoasts." They are among the ones, just the same, who give honesty an everyday meaning and keep our society fit to live in.

Editorial Briefs

Asked for his formula for successful farming, Ed Wynn opined, "Rise early, work late, and strike oil."
—The Minneapolis Tribune

Subscription rate: $2.00 a year payable in advance.

Dairy Plants Have Trouble With Anti-Biotic Content

Dairy plants in Virginia are having trouble with processing milk because of anti-biotic content, reports Dr. S. L. Kalison, veterinarian at VPI Agricultural Extension Service.

He said the situation has made it necessary to discard a considerable amount of milk with resulting financial loss to both the producer and the processor.

There's a solution. Producers should withhold from shipment at least three days milk from quarters that have been treated with anti-biotics.

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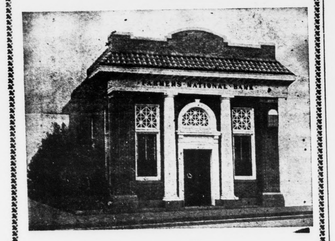

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RABIES PROBLEM IS GREATER THAN GENERALLY REALIZED

Rabies is just as great a problem of agricultural economy as it is of public health.

Dr. S. L. Kalison, veterinarian at VPI Agricultural Extension Service, points out that every year millions of dollars worth of livestock is lost from rabies. Rabid dogs and foxes attack cattle, horses, mules, sheep, and all types of farm animals.

In the 12-month period ending June 30, 1954, over 900 cases in animals were reported in Virginia and West Virginia, and it is estimated that only a small number probably 10% or less of the cases actually occurring, eventually reach the laboratory.

It is remarkable that there are so few human victims, but the number of human exposures was far greater than most people realize.

In Virginia alone, the State Health Department furnished 1,461 sets of vaccine to local physicians for treatments. This is almost three times the number furnished the previous year. The vaccine treatment is no fun, but the alternative is certain death if the disease develops.

To successfully control rabies, at leat 70% or more of the stray dogs in an affected area must be vaccinated, 70% or more of the stray dogs and cats must be eliminated, and wildlife must be drastically reduced.

The control program must include effective measures against all the groups. These points can easily be illustrated by the experience of some counties. In three Virginia counties where wildlife species were not involved, mass immunization and strict control of stray dogs did the job. For instance, rabies cases in Pittsylvania dropped from 38 in 1948 to 1 in 1949, after a dog-control ordinance was passed; in Halifax, from 18 to none; and in Mecklenburg, from 14 to 2.

A completely different picture can be seen in three other counties where the disease is now current and where heavy fox populations have become infected. Bounties were established on foxes, but organized intensive efforts were lacking.

In Fauquier in 1952 there were 49 reported cases. In the first half of 1954, after a dog vaccination program, but no fox control, there were 25 reported. In 1952 Frederick had 36 reported cases; during the first half of 1954, 11 cases. Tazewell had 28 cases in 1952, 60 in 1953, and after a vaccination program, 49 in the first half of 1954. Tazewell was top in the state in the first half of this past year, followed by Rockingham with 40 cases. Three counties—Buchanan, Clarke and Pulaski, topped the 20 mark, as did Hampton City. Sixteen counties had no reported cases the first half of 1954, but none escaped for the 1951-54 period.

TIPS ON BROILERS

More emphasis on quality and less on increased numbers of broilers is being advised by VPI poultry specialists these days.

They say with the increased number of birds being grown in other sections, the Virginia producer can compete more effectively by producing quality broilers.

Here are some specific tips on how to do it:

Start with only the best quality broiler-type chicks. Provide plenty of feed-hopper space: for growing chicks 1 to 14 days, 1 inch per chick; 3 to 6 weeks, 1 1-2 to 2 inches; and 7 to 12 weeks, 3 inches.

Provide enough water space: 1 to 14 days, 20 lineal inches per 100 birds, and 3 to 12 weeks, 40 lineal inches per 100 birds.

Be ready for the chicks when they arrive. Start with brooding temperature 93 to 100 degrees. Reduce 5 to 5 degrees weekly. If birds have been vaccinated for Newcastle or bronchitis, run temperature 2 or 3 degrees higher than normal.

Provide plenty of ventilation. Try to keep the litter dry and the birds comfortable. Vaccinate for Newcastle, especially if you are in a concentrated broiler area.

Keep sparrows, pigeons, and other wild birds, as well as dogs and cats, etc., out of the building. They may be disease-carriers and/or they may frighten your birds so they pile up in corners and smother.

Inspect the birds frequently. Be always on the lookout for disease symptoms or signs of other trouble. If you see anything wrong, act immediately.

Clean up thoroughly between one lot of broilers and the next.

Subscription rate: $2.00 a year payable in advance.

Pamplin Rt. 1

Pamplin, R. F. D. One, Jan. 11.- Mr. Tommie Talley continues ill in Virginia Baptist Hospital in Lynchburg. His friends all wish for him a speedy recovery.

Mr. and Mrs. Ray Roberts and children, of Farmville spent Sunday with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Will Baldwin.

Mrs. G. D. Sizemore, who recently underwent an operation, is improving in Lynchburg General Hospital.

Mr. and Mrs. Paul Arrington, of Lovingston spent the week-end here.

Sgt. and Mrs. William Price, Jr. and children, who recently returned from England, are visiting his parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. R. Price.

Sgt. Price (better known as "Billy" around here) will be stationed in California on his return to duty.

Mr. and Mrs. John Edwards, of Cullen visited her parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Meadows on Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Lewis have returned from a trip to Willow Grove, Penn.

Mr. and Mrs. Fetcher Percell and son, Sammy, of Greensboro, N. C. and Mrs. Joe Pollard, of Cullen visited Mr. and Mrs. Vester Clifton on Sunday.

Eleanor Richardson, Betsy Williams, Anne and Eleanor Faye Ranson spent Wednesday afternoon with Phyllis Clifton. They surprised her with a birthday party, the occasion being her 12th birthday.

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